

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING BILL GEORGE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight for a very specific purpose. It is to speak about a person I have known a long time—25 years or more—who is currently the President of the Pennsylvania State AFL/CIO, a great labor leader in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I will submit a longer statement for the RECORD due to the late hour, but I did wish to say a few words about him. His name is Bill George, and anyone who knows anything about organized labor in Pennsylvania, anyone who knows anything about the topic of battling on behalf of working men and women, knows the name Bill George. He has been the President of our State AFL/CIO since 1990, 20 years in that position. Prior to that, he was a great leader with the United Steelworkers of America and someone I came to know long before I was a candidate for public office, and certainly in the 15 years or so that I have been either a candidate or a public official he has been a source of great inspiration and a great friend.

Even beyond the work he has done for candidates and for causes, this is someone who understood, at a very young age, what it means to battle—to fight the battles for working men and women, to work together with people to collectively bargain for wages and benefits, making sure that working men and women have a voice, and someone who understood what an election means. At the end of the process of conducting an election, you elect someone to public office—or a group of candidates—and their votes and their actions have an impact on working men and women. Bill George has always understood that. He has always understood that those in our society who do not have a voice need people like him to stand and fight battles.

I know the Presiding Officer is well aware that organized labor—and I think Bill George has been a great example of this—often has been battling the hardest on issues from which they do not necessarily benefit directly. The case in point, the minimum wage. We know that those who are represented by unions in almost every circumstance have a pretty solid wage compared to those who may be making a minimum wage or less. We know organized labor, thankfully over many generations now, has been able to bargain collectively for health care benefits. But even despite that, they have battled for those who do not have health insurance. Bill George has been one of the leaders in Pennsylvania for 20 years, making sure the voice of working men and women have been heard but also making sure the poor had a voice, the vulnerable, the forgotten, the people who have been left out. To use a line from Scriptures, “The least, the last and the lost” have been

beneficiaries of his great voice and his strength of personality, his commitment to fighting for justice and especially fighting for economic and social justice.

Tonight, as we are here in Washington and voting, there is a huge crowd of Pennsylvanians at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, a convention center named in honor of one of our greater Governors, a native of Pittsburgh. The AFL/CIO tonight is paying tribute to Bill George and also Dan Rooney, the great owner of the six-time Super Bowl Pittsburgh Steelers and now the Ambassador to Ireland. So I wish to compliment both Dan Rooney and Bill George on their award tonight at the AFL/CIO dinner in Pittsburgh.

But in a very particular way, I wish to commend and salute the work Bill George has done over so many years in our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, culminating in the last 20 years as President of the Pennsylvania AFL/CIO. Congratulations to Bill George. I know he will stay active in Pennsylvania and beyond, but we want to commend him especially tonight.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I listened intently to the Presiding Officer's remarks just before I took the floor, and I, too, wanted to add my congratulations to Bill George and associate myself with his remarks.

I was particularly moved by the comments the Senator made about often organized labor in this country works on behalf of all Americans, all working Americans, and organized labor often does not receive acknowledgment. Sometimes it receives absolutely the opposite, slings and arrows that are often sent toward organized labor.

There is much that organized labor has done over the years that we take for granted in the workplace, everything from workplace safety to pension protection to the 40-hour workweek. Children do not work in our factories anymore because of what organized labor did for many decades.

So, again, that was very moving for me to hear. I salute Mr. George. I also took note of the mention of the six-time world champion Pittsburgh Steelers. In my State we have a two-time world champion football team, the Denver Broncos. It always seemed, though, we had to go through Pittsburgh. Often we fell short, but on two occasions we were able to make it to the Super Bowl itself. We also had to pass the test that the Steelers presented.

(The remarks of Mr. UDALL of Colorado pertaining to the introduction of S. 3201 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT SEAN DURKIN

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I want to close and take advantage of another minute or two to speak on a separate note but a related note.

I wish to talk about Sean Durkin. He was a soldier from Fort Carson whom we just lost from wounds that he suffered in Afghanistan in a roadside bomb attack. Those are the most casualty-ridden attacks that our forces have faced over and over, not only in Afghanistan but in Iraq.

Last week, Army SGT Sean Durkin died at Walter Reed because of his wounds. He had been one of three Fort Carson soldiers who were presented a Purple Heart from President Obama when he visited Kabul and went to the military hospital when he was there.

On his Facebook page, he included a quotation from an unnamed marine. This quotation said:

This is my charge to you. Tell everyone of the heroism of the soldiers who lost their lives and of the soldiers who are fighting to recover what they have lost.

I wanted to tell everyone here, everyone listening, everyone watching of Sergeant Durkin's heroism and ask that we keep in our prayers and our thoughts all of our service men and women and their families as they serve us all over the world.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During the month of April, I urge my colleagues and Americans around the country to reflect on the effects of sexual assault and domestic violence in their communities and to join me in making a commitment to end this stain on our society. In conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, our country will observe